

Senate Bill 406

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Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee,

My name is Linda Heffernan and this is my daughter, Mattea Rose. We are here to testify in support of SB 406.

Almost 13 years ago I received a phone call from a lady who introduced herself and then said, "I heard that you have four boys and might be interested in adopting a little girl." Due to some difficulties with the pregnancy, the private adoption that had been arranged was no longer desired so they were looking for a family. That was how Mattea Rose (meaning "gift of God") came to us.

In this same hospital, at the same time we were rejoicing over our gift, another little girl was born. She was also born with difficulties; Down's Syndrome with an obstruction commonly repaired with surgery. Unfortunately, the parents chose not to have the surgery and the little girl in the incubator slowly starved to death.

I am horrified to think that this was going on quietly in our midst and most people are not aware of it. As high as 80% of Down's Syndrome pregnancies now end in abortion.

This reminds me of the first to be exterminated in Germany, (Nazi's called their disabled "useless eaters"). They also had no voice they were led to the gas chambers.

SB 406 addresses the unalienable rights we all have to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

Thank you for your time.

Linda and Mattea Rose Heffernan